

## 1 HOUSE BILL NO. 250

2 INTRODUCED BY MORGAN

3

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING THE DESIGN OF LICENSE PLATES FOR RECIPIENTS  
5 OF A PURPLE HEART MEDAL; AMENDING SECTION 61-3-332, MCA; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED  
6 EFFECTIVE DATE."

7

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

9

10 **Section 1.** Section 61-3-332, MCA, is amended to read:

11 **"61-3-332. (Temporary) Number plates.** (1) A motor vehicle that is driven upon the streets or highways  
12 of Montana must display both front and rear number plates, bearing the distinctive number assigned to the  
13 vehicle.

14 (2) In addition to special license plates, collegiate license plates, and generic specialty license plates  
15 authorized under this chapter, a separate series of number plates must be issued, in the manner specified, for  
16 each of the following vehicle or dealer types:

17 (a) passenger vehicles, including automobiles, vans, and sport utility vehicles;

18 (b) motorcycles and quadricycles, bearing the letters "MC" or "CYCLE";

19 (c) trucks, bearing the letter "T" or the word "TRUCK";

20 (d) trailers, bearing the letters "TR" or the word "TRAILER";

21 (e) dealers of new, or new and used, motor vehicles, including trucks and trailers, bearing the letter "D"  
22 or the word "DEALER";

23 (f) dealers of used motor vehicles only, including trucks and trailers, bearing the letters "UD" or the letter  
24 "U" and the word "DEALER";

25 (g) dealers of motorcycles or quadricycles, bearing the letters "MCD" or the letters "MC" and the word  
26 "DEALER";

27 (h) dealers of trailers or semitrailers, bearing the letters "DTR" or the letters "TR" and the word  
28 "DEALER"; and

29 (i) dealers of recreational vehicles, bearing the letters "RV" or the letter "R" and the word "DEALER".

30 (3) (a) Except as provided in 61-3-479 and subsections (4)(c) and (4)(d) of this section, all number

1 plates for motor vehicles must be issued for a maximum period of 4 years, bear a distinctive marking, and be  
2 furnished by the department. In years when number plates are not issued, the department shall provide  
3 nonremovable stickers bearing appropriate registration numbers that must be affixed to the license plates in use.

4 (b) For motorcycles, quadricycles, and light vehicles that are permanently registered as provided in  
5 61-3-527 or 61-3-315 and 61-3-562, the department shall provide distinctive nonremovable stickers indicating  
6 that the vehicle is permanently registered. The stickers must be affixed to the license plates in use.

7 (4) (a) Subject to the provisions of this section, the department shall create a new design for number  
8 plates as provided in this section, and it shall manufacture the newly designed number plates for issuance after  
9 December 31, 1999, to replace at renewal, as required in 61-3-312 and 61-3-314, number plates that were  
10 displayed on motor vehicles before that date.

11 (b) Beginning January 1, 2000, the department shall manufacture and issue new number plates every  
12 4 years.

13 (c) A light vehicle that is registered for a 24-month period, as provided in 61-3-315 and 61-3-560, may  
14 display the number plate and plate design in effect at the time of registration for the entire 24-month registration  
15 period.

16 (d) A motorcycle, quadricycle, or light vehicle that is permanently registered, as provided in 61-3-527  
17 or 61-3-315 and 61-3-562, may display the number plate and plate design in effect at the time of registration for  
18 the entire period that the vehicle is permanently registered.

19 (5) In the case of passenger vehicles and trucks, plates must be of metal 6 inches wide and 12 inches  
20 in length. Except for generic specialty license plates, the outline of the state of Montana must be used as a  
21 distinctive border on the license plates, and the word "Montana" must be placed on each plate. Registration  
22 plates must be treated with a reflectorized background material according to specifications prescribed by the  
23 department.

24 (6) The distinctive registration numbers must begin with a number one or with a letter-number  
25 combination, such as "A 1" or "AA 1", or any other similar combination of letters and numbers. Except for special  
26 license plates, collegiate license plates, and generic specialty license plates, the distinctive registration number  
27 or letter-number combination assigned to the vehicle must appear on the plate preceded by the number of the  
28 county and appearing in horizontal order on the same horizontal baseline. The county number must be  
29 separated from the distinctive registration number by a separation mark unless a letter-number combination is  
30 used. The dimensions of the numerals and letters must be determined by the department, and all county and

1 registration numbers must be of equal height.

2 (7) For the use of exempt motor vehicles and motor vehicles that are exempt from the registration fee  
3 as provided in 61-3-560(2)(a), in addition to the markings provided in this section, number plates must bear the  
4 following distinctive markings:

5 (a) For vehicles owned by the state, the department may designate the prefix number for the various  
6 state departments. All numbered plates issued to state departments must bear the words "State Owned", and  
7 a year number may not be indicated on the plates because these numbered plates are of a permanent nature  
8 and will be replaced by the department only when the physical condition of numbered plates requires it.

9 (b) For vehicles that are owned by the counties, municipalities, and special districts, as defined in  
10 18-8-202, organized under the laws of Montana and not operating for profit, and that are used and operated by  
11 officials and employees in the line of duty and for vehicles on loan from the United States government or the  
12 state of Montana to, or owned by, the civil air patrol and used and operated by officials and employees in the  
13 line of duty, there must be placed on the number plates assigned, in a position that the department may  
14 designate, the letter "X" or the word "EXEMPT". Distinctive registration numbers for plates assigned to motor  
15 vehicles of each of the counties in the state and those of the municipalities and special districts that obtain plates  
16 within each county must begin with number one and be numbered consecutively. Because these number plates  
17 are of a permanent nature, they are subject to replacement by the department only when the physical condition  
18 of the number plates requires it and a year number may not be displayed on the number plates.

19 (8) Number plates issued to a passenger vehicle, truck, trailer, motorcycle, or quadricycle may be  
20 transferred only to a replacement passenger vehicle, truck, trailer, motorcycle, or quadricycle. A registration or  
21 license fee may not be assessed upon a transfer of a number plate under 61-3-317 and 61-3-335.

22 (9) For the purpose of this chapter, the several counties of the state are assigned numbers as follows:  
23 Silver Bow, 1; Cascade, 2; Yellowstone, 3; Missoula, 4; Lewis and Clark, 5; Gallatin, 6; Flathead, 7; Fergus, 8;  
24 Powder River, 9; Carbon, 10; Phillips, 11; Hill, 12; Ravalli, 13; Custer, 14; Lake, 15; Dawson, 16; Roosevelt, 17;  
25 Beaverhead, 18; Chouteau, 19; Valley, 20; Toole, 21; Big Horn, 22; Musselshell, 23; Blaine, 24; Madison, 25;  
26 Pondera, 26; Richland, 27; Powell, 28; Rosebud, 29; Deer Lodge, 30; Teton, 31; Stillwater, 32; Treasure, 33;  
27 Sheridan, 34; Sanders, 35; Judith Basin, 36; Daniels, 37; Glacier, 38; Fallon, 39; Sweet Grass, 40; McCone, 41;  
28 Carter, 42; Broadwater, 43; Wheatland, 44; Prairie, 45; Granite, 46; Meagher, 47; Liberty, 48; Park, 49; Garfield,  
29 50; Jefferson, 51; Wibaux, 52; Golden Valley, 53; Mineral, 54; Petroleum, 55; Lincoln, 56. Any new counties must  
30 be assigned numbers by the department as they may be formed, beginning with the number 57.

1           (10) Each type of special license plate approved by the legislature, except collegiate license plates  
2 authorized in 61-3-463 and generic specialty license plates authorized in 61-3-472 through 61-3-481, must be  
3 a separate series of plates, numbered as provided in subsection (6), except that the county number must be  
4 replaced by a nonremovable design or decal designating the group or organization to which the applicant  
5 belongs. Unless otherwise specifically stated in this section, the special plates are subject to the same rules and  
6 laws as govern the issuance of regular license plates, must be placed or mounted on a vehicle owned by the  
7 person who is eligible to receive them, and must be removed upon sale or other disposition of the vehicle. The  
8 special license plates must be issued to national guard members, former prisoners of war, persons with  
9 disabilities, reservists, disabled veterans, survivors of the Pearl Harbor attack, veterans of the armed services,  
10 national guard veterans, legion of valor members, or veterans of the armed services who were awarded the  
11 purple heart medal, who comply with the following provisions:

12           (a) (i) An active member of the Montana national guard may be issued special license plates with a  
13 design or decal displaying the letters "NG". The adjutant general shall issue to each active member of the  
14 Montana national guard a certificate authorizing the department to issue national guard plates, numbered in sets  
15 of two with a different number on each set, and the member shall surrender the plates to the department upon  
16 becoming ineligible to use them.

17           (ii) The department may issue national guard veteran plates, bearing a design or decal displaying the  
18 Montana national guard insignia and the words "National Guard veteran" and numbered in sets of two with a  
19 different number on each set, to an applicant who presents to the department a copy of certification of national  
20 guard retirement eligibility issued by the appropriate authorities for the applicant or the applicant's deceased  
21 spouse and who pays, in addition to all taxes and fees required by parts 3 and 5 of this chapter, a national guard  
22 veteran license plate fee of \$10. The additional fee must be distributed in accordance with the provisions of  
23 subsection (12).

24           (b) An active member of the reserve armed forces of the United States of America who is a resident  
25 of this state may be issued special license plates with a design or decal displaying the following: United States  
26 army reserve, AR (symbol); United States naval reserve, NR (anchor); United States air force reserve, AFR  
27 (symbol); and United States marine corps reserve, MCR (globe and anchor). The commanding officer of each  
28 armed forces reserve unit shall issue to each eligible member of the reserve unit a certificate authorizing the  
29 issuance of special license plates, numbered in sets of two with a different number on each set. The member  
30 shall surrender the plates to the department upon becoming ineligible to use them.

1 (c) (i) Subject to the limitation in 61-3-453, a resident of Montana who is a veteran of the armed forces  
2 of the United States and who has been awarded the purple heart and is 50% or more disabled because of an  
3 injury that has been determined by the department of veterans affairs to be service-connected or who is 100%  
4 disabled because of an injury that has been determined by the department of veterans affairs to be  
5 service-connected may, upon presentation to the department of documentation required in subsection (10)(f)(i)  
6 and proof of the required disability, be issued:

7 (A) a special license plate under this section with the purple heart decal and the words "combat  
8 wounded" or a design or decal displaying the letters "DV"; or

9 (B) one set of any other military-related plates that the 50% or more disabled veteran who has been  
10 awarded the purple heart or the disabled veteran is eligible to receive under this section.

11 (ii) The fee for original or renewal registration by a 100% disabled veteran for a motor vehicle, as defined  
12 in 61-1-102, that is not used for commercial purposes is \$5 and is in lieu of all other fees and taxes for that  
13 vehicle under this chapter irrespective of which set of military license plates the veteran is eligible to receive and  
14 chooses to display under subsection (10)(c)(i).

15 (iii) The fee for original or renewal registration for a motor vehicle, as defined in 61-1-102, that is not  
16 used for commercial purposes by a 50% or more disabled veteran who has been awarded the purple heart and  
17 who meets the criteria in subsection (10)(c)(i) is \$5 and is in lieu of other taxes and fees for that vehicle under  
18 this chapter, except for the \$10 fee required in subsection (10)(f)(iii), regardless of which set of military license  
19 plates the veteran is eligible to receive and chooses to display under subsection (10)(c)(i). Special license plates  
20 issued to a 50% or more disabled veteran who has been awarded the purple heart under subsection (10)(c) may  
21 be retained by a surviving spouse, subject to payment of all taxes and fees required under parts 3 and 4 of this  
22 chapter as provided in subsection (10)(f)(iii).

23 (iv) Special license plates issued to a disabled veteran and, except as provided in subsection (10)(c)(iii),  
24 to a 50% or more disabled veteran who has been awarded the purple heart are not transferable to another  
25 person.

26 (v) A 50% or more disabled veteran who has been awarded the purple heart or a disabled veteran is  
27 not entitled to a special license plate for more than one vehicle.

28 (vi) A vehicle that is lawfully displaying a disabled veteran's plate with a design or decal displaying the  
29 letters "DV" and that is conveying a 100% disabled veteran is entitled to the parking privileges allowed a person  
30 with a disability's vehicle under this title.

1 (d) (i) A Montana resident who is a veteran of the armed forces of the United States and was captured  
2 and held prisoner by a military force of a foreign nation, documented by the veteran's service record, may upon  
3 application and presentation of proof be issued special license plates, numbered in sets of two with a different  
4 number on each set, with a design or decal displaying the words "ex-prisoner of war" or an abbreviation that the  
5 department considers appropriate.

6 (ii) Fees required under 61-3-321(1) and (6) may not be assessed upon one set of license plates issued  
7 to an ex-prisoner of war under this subsection (10)(d).

8 (iii) A special license plate fee may not be assessed upon one set of special license plates issued to an  
9 ex-prisoner of war under this subsection (10)(d).

10 (iv) An ex-prisoner of war is exempt from the registration fees imposed under 61-3-560 through 61-3-562  
11 for one vehicle that displays a set of ex-prisoner of war license plates.

12 (v) A surviving spouse of an ex-prisoner of war may retain the special license plates that have been  
13 issued to the ex-prisoner of war if the spouse complies with the provisions of 61-3-457.

14 (e) Except as provided in subsections (10)(c) and (10)(d), upon payment of all taxes and fees required  
15 by parts 3 and 5 of this chapter and upon furnishing proof satisfactory to the department that the applicant meets  
16 the requirements of this subsection (10)(e), the department shall issue to a Montana resident who is a veteran  
17 of the armed services of the United States special license plates, numbered in sets of two with a different  
18 number on each set, designed to indicate that the applicant is a survivor of the Pearl Harbor attack if the  
19 applicant was a member of the United States armed forces on December 7, 1941, was on station on December  
20 7, 1941, during the hours of 7:55 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. (Hawaii time) at Pearl Harbor, the island of Oahu, or was  
21 offshore at a distance of not more than 3 miles, and received an honorable discharge from the United States  
22 armed forces. If special license plates issued under subsection (10)(d) and this subsection are lost, stolen, or  
23 mutilated, the recipient of the plates is entitled to replacement plates upon request and without charge.

24 (f) A motor vehicle owner and resident of this state who is a veteran or the surviving spouse of a veteran  
25 of the armed services of the United States may be issued license plates inscribed as provided in subsection  
26 (10)(f)(i) if the veteran was separated from the armed services under other than dishonorable circumstances or  
27 was awarded the purple heart medal:

28 (i) Upon submission of a department of defense form 214(DD-214) or its successor or documents  
29 showing an other-than-dishonorable discharge or a reenlistment, proper identification, and other relevant  
30 documents to show an applicant's qualification under this subsection, there must be issued to the applicant, in

1 lieu of the regular license plates prescribed by law, special license plates numbered in sets of two with a different  
2 number on each set. The plates must display:

3 (A) the word "VETERAN" and a symbol signifying the United States army, United States navy, United  
4 States air force, United States marine corps, or United States coast guard, according to the record of service  
5 verified in the application; or

6 (B) a symbol representing the purple heart medal and the words "combat wounded".

7 (ii) Plates must be furnished by the department to the county treasurer, who shall issue them to a  
8 qualified veteran or to the veteran's surviving spouse. The plates must be placed or mounted on the vehicle  
9 owned by the veteran or the veteran's surviving spouse designated in the application and must be removed upon  
10 sale or other disposition of the vehicle.

11 (iii) Except as provided for 100% disabled veterans and ex-prisoners of war in subsections (10)(c) and  
12 (10)(d), a veteran or surviving spouse who receives special license plates under this subsection (10)(f) is liable  
13 for payment of all taxes and fees required under parts 3 and 4 of this chapter and a special veteran's or purple  
14 heart medal license plate fee of \$10.

15 (g) A Montana resident who is eligible to receive a special parking permit under 49-4-301 may, upon  
16 written application on a form prescribed by the department, be issued a special license plate with a design or  
17 decal bearing a representation of a wheelchair as the symbol of a person with a disability.

18 (h) The department may issue legion of valor license plates, bearing a design or decal depicting the  
19 recognized legion of valor medallion and numbered in sets of two with a different number on each set, to an  
20 applicant who presents to the department proper documentation of receipt of a legion of valor award by  
21 appropriate authorities to the applicant or the applicant's deceased spouse and who pays all taxes and fees  
22 required by parts 3 and 5 of this chapter.

23 (i) An active member of the armed forces of the United States who is a resident of the state or who is  
24 stationed outside of Montana may be issued special license plates inscribed as provided in subsection  
25 (10)(f)(i)(A). The member's commanding officer may issue a certificate or some other relevant document to show  
26 the applicant's qualification and authorizing the issuance of the special license plates in sets of two with a  
27 different number on each set. The member is liable for payment of all taxes and fees required by this chapter,  
28 except as provided in 61-3-456.

29 (11) The provisions of this section do not apply to a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer that is registered  
30 as part of a fleet, as defined in 61-3-712, and that is subject to the provisions of 61-3-711 through 61-3-733.

1 (12) Fees collected under this section must be deposited in the state general fund. (Terminates July 1,  
2 2005--sec. 21, Ch. 402, L. 2001.)

3 **61-3-332. (Effective July 1, 2005) Number plates.** (1) A motor vehicle that is driven upon the streets  
4 or highways of Montana must display both front and rear number plates, bearing the distinctive number assigned  
5 to the vehicle.

6 (2) In addition to special license plates and collegiate license plates authorized under this chapter, a  
7 separate series of number plates must be issued, in the manner specified, for each of the following vehicle or  
8 dealer types:

9 (a) passenger vehicles, including automobiles, vans, and sport utility vehicles;

10 (b) motorcycles and quadricycles, bearing the letters "MC" or "CYCLE";

11 (c) trucks, bearing the letter "T" or the word "TRUCK";

12 (d) trailers, bearing the letters "TR" or the word "TRAILER";

13 (e) dealers of new, or new and used, motor vehicles, including trucks and trailers, bearing the letter "D"  
14 or the word "DEALER";

15 (f) dealers of used motor vehicles only, including trucks and trailers, bearing the letters "UD" or the letter  
16 "U" and the word "DEALER";

17 (g) dealers of motorcycles or quadricycles, bearing the letters "MCD" or the letters "MC" and the word  
18 "DEALER";

19 (h) dealers of trailers or semitrailers, bearing the letters "DTR" or the letters "TR" and the word  
20 "DEALER"; and

21 (i) dealers of recreational vehicles, bearing the letters "RV" or the letter "R" and the word "DEALER".

22 (3) (a) Except as provided in subsections (4)(c) and (4)(d), all number plates for motor vehicles must  
23 be issued for a maximum period of 4 years, bear a distinctive marking, and be furnished by the state. In years  
24 when number plates are not issued, the department shall provide nonremovable stickers bearing appropriate  
25 registration numbers that must be affixed to the license plates in use.

26 (b) For motorcycles, quadricycles, and light vehicles that are permanently registered as provided in  
27 61-3-527 or 61-3-315 and 61-3-562, the department shall provide distinctive nonremovable stickers indicating  
28 that the vehicle is permanently registered. The stickers must be affixed to the license plates in use.

29 (4) (a) Subject to the provisions of this section, the department shall create a new design for number  
30 plates as provided in this section, and it shall manufacture the newly designed number plates for issuance after

1 December 31, 1999, to replace at renewal, as required in 61-3-312 and 61-3-314, number plates that were  
2 displayed on motor vehicles before that date.

3 (b) Beginning January 1, 2000, the department shall manufacture and issue new number plates every  
4 4 years.

5 (c) A light vehicle that is registered for a 24-month period, as provided in 61-3-315 and 61-3-560, may  
6 display the number plate and plate design in effect at the time of registration for the entire 24-month registration  
7 period.

8 (d) A motorcycle, quadricycle, or light vehicle that is permanently registered, as provided in 61-3-527  
9 or 61-3-315 and 61-3-562, may display the number plate and plate design in effect at the time of registration for  
10 the entire period that the vehicle is permanently registered.

11 (5) In the case of passenger vehicles and trucks, plates must be of metal 6 inches wide and 12 inches  
12 in length. The outline of the state of Montana must be used as a distinctive border on the license plates, and the  
13 word "Montana" and the year must be placed across the plates. Registration plates must be treated with a  
14 reflectorized background material according to specifications prescribed by the department.

15 (6) The distinctive registration numbers must begin with a number one or with a letter-number  
16 combination, such as "A 1" or "AA 1", or any other similar combination of letters and numbers. The distinctive  
17 registration number or letter-number combination assigned to the vehicle must appear on the plate preceded  
18 by the number of the county and appearing in horizontal order on the same horizontal baseline. The county  
19 number must be separated from the distinctive registration number by a separation mark unless a letter-number  
20 combination is used. The dimensions of the numerals and letters must be determined by the department, and  
21 all county and registration numbers must be of equal height.

22 (7) For the use of exempt motor vehicles and motor vehicles that are exempt from the registration fee  
23 as provided in 61-3-560(2)(a), in addition to the markings provided in this section, number plates must bear the  
24 following distinctive markings:

25 (a) For vehicles owned by the state, the department may designate the prefix number for the various  
26 state departments. All numbered plates issued to state departments must bear the words "State Owned", and  
27 a year number may not be indicated on the plates because these numbered plates are of a permanent nature  
28 and will be replaced by the department only when the physical condition of numbered plates requires it.

29 (b) For vehicles that are owned by the counties, municipalities, and special districts, as defined in  
30 18-8-202, organized under the laws of Montana and not operating for profit, and that are used and operated by

1 officials and employees in the line of duty and for vehicles on loan from the United States government or the  
2 state of Montana to, or owned by, the civil air patrol and used and operated by officials and employees in the  
3 line of duty, there must be placed on the number plates assigned, in a position that the department may  
4 designate, the letter "X" or the word "EXEMPT". Distinctive registration numbers for plates assigned to motor  
5 vehicles of each of the counties in the state and those of the municipalities and special districts that obtain plates  
6 within each county must begin with number one and be numbered consecutively. Because these number plates  
7 are of a permanent nature, they are subject to replacement by the department only when the physical condition  
8 of the number plates requires it and a year number may not be displayed on the number plates.

9 (8) Number plates issued to a passenger vehicle, truck, trailer, motorcycle, or quadricycle may be  
10 transferred only to a replacement passenger vehicle, truck, trailer, motorcycle, or quadricycle. A registration or  
11 license fee may not be assessed upon a transfer of a number plate under 61-3-317 and 61-3-335.

12 (9) For the purpose of this chapter, the several counties of the state are assigned numbers as follows:  
13 Silver Bow, 1; Cascade, 2; Yellowstone, 3; Missoula, 4; Lewis and Clark, 5; Gallatin, 6; Flathead, 7; Fergus, 8;  
14 Powder River, 9; Carbon, 10; Phillips, 11; Hill, 12; Ravalli, 13; Custer, 14; Lake, 15; Dawson, 16; Roosevelt, 17;  
15 Beaverhead, 18; Chouteau, 19; Valley, 20; Toole, 21; Big Horn, 22; Musselshell, 23; Blaine, 24; Madison, 25;  
16 Pondera, 26; Richland, 27; Powell, 28; Rosebud, 29; Deer Lodge, 30; Teton, 31; Stillwater, 32; Treasure, 33;  
17 Sheridan, 34; Sanders, 35; Judith Basin, 36; Daniels, 37; Glacier, 38; Fallon, 39; Sweet Grass, 40; McCone, 41;  
18 Carter, 42; Broadwater, 43; Wheatland, 44; Prairie, 45; Granite, 46; Meagher, 47; Liberty, 48; Park, 49; Garfield,  
19 50; Jefferson, 51; Wibaux, 52; Golden Valley, 53; Mineral, 54; Petroleum, 55; Lincoln, 56. Any new counties must  
20 be assigned numbers by the department as they may be formed, beginning with the number 57.

21 (10) Each type of special license plate approved by the legislature, except collegiate license plates  
22 authorized in 61-3-463, must be a separate series of plates, numbered as provided in subsection (6), except that  
23 the county number must be replaced by a nonremovable design or decal designating the group or organization  
24 to which the applicant belongs. Unless otherwise specifically stated in this section, the special plates are subject  
25 to the same rules and laws as govern the issuance of regular license plates, must be placed or mounted on a  
26 vehicle owned by the person who is eligible to receive them, and must be removed upon sale or other disposition  
27 of the vehicle. The special license plates must be issued to national guard members, former prisoners of war,  
28 persons with disabilities, reservists, disabled veterans, survivors of the Pearl Harbor attack, veterans of the  
29 armed services, national guard veterans, legion of valor members, or veterans of the armed services who were  
30 awarded the purple heart medal, who comply with the following provisions:

1 (a) (i) An active member of the Montana national guard may be issued special license plates with a  
2 design or decal displaying the letters "NG". The adjutant general shall issue to each active member of the  
3 Montana national guard a certificate authorizing the department to issue national guard plates, numbered in sets  
4 of two with a different number on each set, and the member shall surrender the plates to the department upon  
5 becoming ineligible to use them.

6 (ii) The department may issue national guard veteran plates, bearing a design or decal displaying the  
7 Montana national guard insignia and the words "National Guard veteran" and numbered in sets of two with a  
8 different number on each set, to an applicant who presents to the department a copy of certification of national  
9 guard retirement eligibility issued by the appropriate authorities for the applicant or the applicant's deceased  
10 spouse and who pays, in addition to all taxes and fees required by parts 3 and 5 of this chapter, a national guard  
11 veteran license plate fee of \$10. The additional fee must be distributed in accordance with the provisions of  
12 subsection (12).

13 (b) An active member of the reserve armed forces of the United States of America who is a resident  
14 of this state may be issued special license plates with a design or decal displaying the following: United States  
15 army reserve, AR (symbol); United States naval reserve, NR (anchor); United States air force reserve, AFR  
16 (symbol); and United States marine corps reserve, MCR (globe and anchor). The commanding officer of each  
17 armed forces reserve unit shall issue to each eligible member of the reserve unit a certificate authorizing the  
18 issuance of special license plates, numbered in sets of two with a different number on each set. The member  
19 shall surrender the plates to the department upon becoming ineligible to use them.

20 (c) (i) Subject to the limitation in 61-3-453, a resident of Montana who is a veteran of the armed forces  
21 of the United States and who has been awarded the purple heart and is 50% or more disabled because of an  
22 injury that has been determined by the department of veterans affairs to be service-connected or who is 100%  
23 disabled because of an injury that has been determined by the department of veterans affairs to be  
24 service-connected may, upon presentation to the department of documentation required in subsection (10)(f)(i)  
25 and proof of the required disability, be issued:

26 (A) a special license plate under this section with the purple heart decal and the words "combat  
27 wounded" or a design or decal displaying the letters "DV"; or

28 (B) one set of any other military-related plates that the 50% or more disabled veteran who has been  
29 awarded the purple heart or the disabled veteran is eligible to receive under this section.

30 (ii) The fee for original or renewal registration by a 100% disabled veteran for a motor vehicle, as defined

1 in 61-1-102, that is not used for commercial purposes is \$5 and is in lieu of all other fees and taxes for that  
2 vehicle under this chapter irrespective of which set of military license plates the veteran is eligible to receive and  
3 chooses to display under subsection (10)(c)(i).

4 (iii) The fee for original or renewal registration for a motor vehicle, as defined in 61-1-102, that is not  
5 used for commercial purposes by a 50% or more disabled veteran who has been awarded the purple heart and  
6 who meets the criteria in subsection (10)(c)(i) is \$5 and is in lieu of other taxes and fees for that vehicle under  
7 this chapter, except for the \$10 fee required in subsection (10)(f)(iii), regardless of which set of military license  
8 plates the veteran is eligible to receive and chooses to display under subsection (10)(c)(i). Special license plates  
9 issued to a 50% or more disabled veteran who has been awarded the purple heart under subsection (10)(c) may  
10 be retained by a surviving spouse, subject to payment of all taxes and fees required under parts 3 and 4 of this  
11 chapter as provided in subsection (10)(f)(iii).

12 (iv) Special license plates issued to a disabled veteran and, except as provided in subsection (10)(c)(iii),  
13 to a 50% or more disabled veteran who has been awarded the purple heart are not transferable to another  
14 person.

15 (v) A 50% or more disabled veteran who has been awarded the purple heart or a disabled veteran is  
16 not entitled to a special license plate for more than one vehicle.

17 (vi) A vehicle that is lawfully displaying a disabled veteran's plate with a design or decal displaying the  
18 letters "DV" and that is conveying a 100% disabled veteran is entitled to the parking privileges allowed a person  
19 with a disability's vehicle under this title.

20 (d) (i) A Montana resident who is a veteran of the armed forces of the United States and was captured  
21 and held prisoner by a military force of a foreign nation, documented by the veteran's service record, may upon  
22 application and presentation of proof be issued special license plates, numbered in sets of two with a different  
23 number on each set, with a design or decal displaying the words "ex-prisoner of war" or an abbreviation that the  
24 department considers appropriate.

25 (ii) Fees required under 61-3-321(1) and (6) may not be assessed upon one set of license plates issued  
26 to an ex-prisoner of war under this subsection (10)(d).

27 (iii) A special license plate fee may not be assessed upon one set of special license plates issued to an  
28 ex-prisoner of war under this subsection (10)(d).

29 (iv) An ex-prisoner of war is exempt from the registration fees imposed under 61-3-560 through 61-3-562  
30 for one vehicle that displays a set of ex-prisoner of war license plates.

1 (v) A surviving spouse of an ex-prisoner of war may retain the special license plates that have been  
2 issued to the ex-prisoner of war if the spouse complies with the provisions of 61-3-457.

3 (e) Except as provided in subsections (10)(c) and (10)(d), upon payment of all taxes and fees required  
4 by parts 3 and 5 of this chapter and upon furnishing proof satisfactory to the department that the applicant meets  
5 the requirements of this subsection (10)(e), the department shall issue to a Montana resident who is a veteran  
6 of the armed services of the United States special license plates, numbered in sets of two with a different  
7 number on each set, designed to indicate that the applicant is a survivor of the Pearl Harbor attack if the  
8 applicant was a member of the United States armed forces on December 7, 1941, was on station on December  
9 7, 1941, during the hours of 7:55 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. (Hawaii time) at Pearl Harbor, the island of Oahu, or was  
10 offshore at a distance of not more than 3 miles, and received an honorable discharge from the United States  
11 armed forces. If special license plates issued under subsection (10)(d) and this subsection are lost, stolen, or  
12 mutilated, the recipient of the plates is entitled to replacement plates upon request and without charge.

13 (f) A motor vehicle owner and resident of this state who is a veteran or the surviving spouse of a veteran  
14 of the armed services of the United States may be issued license plates inscribed as provided in subsection  
15 (10)(f)(i) if the veteran was separated from the armed services under other than dishonorable circumstances or  
16 was awarded the purple heart medal:

17 (i) Upon submission of a department of defense form 214(DD-214) or its successor or documents  
18 showing an other-than-dishonorable discharge or a reenlistment, proper identification, and other relevant  
19 documents to show an applicant's qualification under this subsection, there must be issued to the applicant, in  
20 lieu of the regular license plates prescribed by law, special license plates numbered in sets of two with a different  
21 number on each set. The plates must display:

22 (A) the word "VETERAN" and a symbol signifying the United States army, United States navy, United  
23 States air force, United States marine corps, or United States coast guard, according to the record of service  
24 verified in the application; or

25 (B) a symbol representing the purple heart medal and the words "combat wounded".

26 (ii) Plates must be furnished by the department to the county treasurer, who shall issue them to a  
27 qualified veteran or to the veteran's surviving spouse. The plates must be placed or mounted on the vehicle  
28 owned by the veteran or the veteran's surviving spouse designated in the application and must be removed upon  
29 sale or other disposition of the vehicle.

30 (iii) Except as provided for 100% disabled veterans and ex-prisoners of war in subsections (10)(c) and

1 (10)(d), a veteran or surviving spouse who receives special license plates under this subsection (10)(f) is liable  
2 for payment of all taxes and fees required under parts 3 and 4 of this chapter and a special veteran's or purple  
3 heart medal license plate fee of \$10.

4 (g) A Montana resident who is eligible to receive a special parking permit under 49-4-301 may, upon  
5 written application on a form prescribed by the department, be issued a special license plate with a design or  
6 decal bearing a representation of a wheelchair as the symbol of a person with a disability.

7 (h) The department may issue legion of valor license plates, bearing a design or decal depicting the  
8 recognized legion of valor medallion and numbered in sets of two with a different number on each set, to an  
9 applicant who presents to the department proper documentation of receipt of a legion of valor award by  
10 appropriate authorities to the applicant or the applicant's deceased spouse and who pays all taxes and fees  
11 required by parts 3 and 5 of this chapter.

12 (i) An active member of the armed forces of the United States who is a resident of the state or who is  
13 stationed outside of Montana may be issued special license plates inscribed as provided in subsection  
14 (10)(f)(i)(A). The member's commanding officer may issue a certificate or some other relevant document to show  
15 the applicant's qualification and authorizing the issuance of the special license plates in sets of two with a  
16 different number on each set. The member is liable for payment of all taxes and fees required by this chapter,  
17 except as provided in 61-3-456.

18 (11) The provisions of this section do not apply to a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer that is registered  
19 as part of a fleet, as defined in 61-3-712, and that is subject to the provisions of 61-3-711 through 61-3-733.

20 (12) Fees collected under this section must be deposited in the state general fund."  
21

22 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective January 1, 2004.  
23

- END -